

DESERT

BULLS



RED BULL SANTA  
SENDS YOU A  
MERRY CHRISTMAS

DEC. 21, 2005

# Gov. Pawlenty announces new license plates

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty announced the new "Support Our Troops" license plates during his visit Sunday to Camp Shelby. The license plates are now available at all deputy registrar locations. Such plates were proposed by Pawlenty last year and they were authorized during the 2005 legislative session. The plates feature a bald eagle in the foreground against an American flag backdrop. They may be displayed on passenger



vehicles, one-ton pickup trucks and recreational vehicles. Plates with a disability insignia may be ordered for passenger vehicles. Motorcycle plates will be available in the spring of 2006. Minnesotans now have the opportunity to show their support of our state's military members and veterans by purchasing and displaying these license plates." Governor Pawlenty said. Anyone is

eligible to purchase the Support Our Troops plates. The cost for the new plates is \$18.50 (\$10 license plate fee and \$8.50 filing fee), along with a minimum annual contribution of \$30 which is tax deductible for people who itemize on Schedule A of their federal tax forms. The proceeds from plate sales will be split between the Department of Military Affairs for financial support of military families and the Department of Veteran Affairs for veterans outreach programs, grants to veterans service organizations and rehabilitation programs.

## Kerska in charge of training and operations

### Hooah, Red Bulls!

I am Lt. Col. Eric Kerska, your 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Operations Officer or S-3. I hold the staff responsibility for training and operations.

As such, I supervise the Current Operations Cell, the plans cell and the training cell here at Camp Shelby. The function of CHOPS is to be aware of and track every operation going on within the BCT, which is no small feat.

The function of plans is to determine how we should accomplish missions assigned to the BCT. There is arguably no more difficult or thankless job that

than of a planner. I am extremely fortunate to lead a very talented and dedicated bunch of Soldiers in the S-3 shop.



Lt. Col. Eric Kerska

The Soldiers of this shop make me proud and make me look good every single day. If you ever wonder, how things got so screwed up – that would be me.

### Remember Bataan!

## Channel 5 TV program to air Feb. 4

Several 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Soldiers will be included in the 10:35 p.m. Feb. 4 showing of "On the Road with Jason Davis" on KSTP Channel 5, Minneapolis.

Davis' broadcast team visited

Camp Shelby from Dec. 15-17, filming and interviewing several BCT Soldiers training.

Davis said this program will be one of his special ones.



**Found in the field:** Large sum of money in unique carrying case with video game. Please identify amount of money, PSP Game, and carrying case and it will be promptly returned. Please contact Lt. Col. William Lieder @ Brigade Troops Battalion Bldg 2404.

**Found in a GSA Van:** Raincoat size medium. Please contact 1st Lt. Eric Magistad.

# Day in Red Bull history

**Wednesday, Dec. 25, 1943**

Near the town of Frontolli, Italy

On Christmas Day there was no set schedule, dinner was the big event of the day. Even a small

evergreen tree was trimmed and set in the middle of the area, with a lot of oranges, apples, and nuts around it that we had bought with our Company funds. The dinner menu was turkey,

potatoes, gravy, vegetables, and a dessert. In the afternoon we had a small USO show visit our Regiment. The cast included *Ella Logan*, the singer, and two others.

## DESERT BULLS DEC. 21, 2005 ISSUE 10



1/34 BCT Commander;  
Col. David Elicerio  
1/34 BCT CSM:  
Command Sgt. Maj.  
Doug Julin

The Desert Bulls Staff:  
OIC: Capt. Mark Lappegaard  
Editor:  
Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood  
Broadcast journalist:  
Sgt. Kent Westberg  
Print journalist:  
Pfc. Brian D. Jesness  
For more information  
on the 1/34 BCT  
go online to [www.redbullweb.com](http://www.redbullweb.com)

**On the cover:** Santa Claus waves during the Thanksgiving Parade last month on Forrest Avenue. This is a reminder that 1/34 BCT Soldiers will be on Holiday Exodus until next year. Photo by Pfc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PA.

The Desert Bulls is an official publication of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team. It is produced by the 1/34 BCT Public Affairs Office. This Soldier newsletter is in compliance with the provisions of AR 360-1. Any questions, comments, photos, story ideas that you would like to present should be forwarded to the 1/34 BCT Public Affairs Office. E-mail Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood at [clinton.wood@us.army.mil](mailto:clinton.wood@us.army.mil).



## 8 SECONDS

### New Web site for NCOs

Did you know that the Army has not approved any other company and has not given them any copyrights to sell the Army Combat Uniform as an "authentic uniform?"

This statement came from the discussion section of a new Web site, NCO Net at <https://nconet.bcks.army.mil>. Just type this in your computer and make it a favorite.

The discussion went on to say that right now the Department of the Army is tracking three companies that are selling ACUs without the Army's permission.

I posted my own discussion topic and less than an hour had three well thought of replies.

Besides allowing noncommissioned officers to hold professional discussion with fellow NCOs, this Web site also will find answers to your questions; find Web sites, download software, classes or training aids.

Surfing it as I wrote this article, I also discovered a NCO Creed audio file, Convoy Leader powerpoint slides, a how to maintain the M-16 rifle handout and Noncommissioned Officer in Charge Evaluation Report Guide and Tips, links to MyRecords, MyPay, MyDAPhoto, MyERB, MyAssignment and MyPromotionFile.

This Web site is easy to become a member. Scroll down the left hand side of the menu and click on become a member. You will be asked for

information, including a short bio on yourself, your education history, your work experience, Theater Deployments and duty status.

The Web site's vision is to create a place where NCOs engage in professional conversation which enables knowledge transfer, supports life-long learning, and transformation for the betterment of our units and our professional growth.

#### How to create ad using PowerPoint:

1. Go to FILE, then PAGE SETUP, then set page to 2" by 2".
2. Create ad.
3. Print a test copy to ensure you like it (and can read it).
4. Go to FILE, then SAVE AS, then select JPEG under the SAVE AS TYPE drop down. Click CURRENT SLIDE ONLY.

We are  
**Losing**  
a  
**Soldier**  
every  
**9**  
hours

Are MY daily activities going to help reduce losses and turn the arrow DOWN?

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS CENTER

# Foundations for Faith



“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:14) So said the heavenly host announcing that Christmas had arrived.

It sounds similar to the battle cry of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team as we prepare to leave Camp Shelby – “Praise God! We’re outta here!” And although that may be the sentiment of many, it is my fervent prayer that each of us pause during this holiday exodus to reflect on the message of the holiday season. While the commercialism of

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:14) So said the heavenly host announcing that Christmas had arrived.

America attempts to distract us and persuade us that shopping and spending is reason for the season, let us not buy into that mentality – no pun intended. Let us keep our battle focus. Soldiers above all know what this season is about – because it is the cause we have pledged to give our lives for.

**Peace.** Peace in Iraq, peace in our country, peace in our homes, peace in our souls. Take the time with your



**Chp (Maj.) Eric Feig**

loved ones to consider the call for peace, and the high price that has been paid to secure peace in our world. And may the peace which passes all understanding be yours this holiday season, whether you choose to celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or just sit back and relax. Keep the faith. See you all in January!

**CH (Maj.) Feig  
134th BSB Chaplain**

Got an Announcement?



Post here for FREE!

Email 2"x2" JPEG to [clinton.wood@us.army.mil](mailto:clinton.wood@us.army.mil) by 1200 Sundays.

**WANTED!**



Your photos and stories from here and home

Email to [clinton.wood@us.army.mil](mailto:clinton.wood@us.army.mil) by 1200 Sundays

**LOOSE LIPS**



**MIGHT Sink Ships**

THIS POSTER IS PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE NATIONAL VICTORY EFFORT

Seagram



**TARGET: OPERATIONAL SECURITY**

*The following information should not be reported:*

- b. Any information that reveals details of future plans, operations, or strikes, including postponed or canceled operations.
- c. Information, photography, and imagery that would reveal the specific location of military forces or show the level of security at military installations or encampments.

**The ENEMY is listening**

**He wants to know what you know**

**KEEP IT TO YOURSELF**

Military Operations Security, War Department  
Office of Naval Intelligence, Navy Department  
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice

# First Christmas

## Several Soldiers to spend first Christmas with newborn children

By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood  
1/34 BCT PA

CAMP SHELBY, Miss., — It will be a special Christmas for several of the 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Soldiers training here for their deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom next spring.

It will be the first Christmas for them and their newborn children. The 1/34 BCT Soldiers were granted a 14-day Holiday leave.

For Chaplain (1st Lt.) Todd Luken of Fridley, Minn., the leave will be extra special. It will be his firstborn's first Christmas. Connor, who weighed 7 pounds, was born Dec. 8

This is the second time that Luken will be able to spend time with Connor. He was able to go home from Dec. 8 until Dec. 17.

"It was just a miracle, very cathartic, Luken, the chaplain for the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron, 167<sup>th</sup> Cavalry based in Lincoln, Neb., said of seeing Connor for the first time. "Tons of emotions. Hard to explain. I guess it seemed unreal in some senses I can't believe after this long he's finally here" He and his wife were trying for several years to have a child.

For Maj. David Munson of New Ulm, Minn., he will also see his second daughter, Elsie, for the second time. He saw Elsie for the first time when she was two days old, on Nov. 29. His wife who was over her due date, was scheduled to be induced Nov. 29. "We had discussed whether or not I should try and make it home for the birth and we both agreed that she



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 1/34 BCT PA  
**Chaplain (1st Lt.) Todd Luken holds a photo of his firstborn, Connor, who was born Dec. 8. Luken is among several 1/34 Brigade Combat Team Soldiers who will spend Christmas with their newborn children.**

didn't need me at the hospital and would be better for me to arrive in time to take her home from the hospital in order to maximize our time together," he said. "It worked out perfect as I arrived home at 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 29

and my wife was released at 6:30 p.m."

Munson of Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 1/34 Brigade Combat Team, said the whole situation was surreal because he was so removed from the situation. "I'm so proud of my wife for being able to go through



**Elsie Munson**

the last couple of months of her pregnancy and taking care of our 3-year old daughter without me," he said.

He said since he returned to the camp, his wife has been sending photographs of Elsie, who weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces at birth, to him. "I can see the transformation in Elsie's face already," he said. "It was more difficult leaving after those six days then it was to come here in September.

That same month is when Spc. Mark Andren's third son, Cole, rolled over two days after he left for the camp.

His wife said Cole, who was born June 8, is now talking "baby gibber jabber, rolling over and pulling himself onto all

fours and rocking almost a crawl." Mark's wife said Mark of Company

### First Christmas

*Continued on next Page*

## First Christmas

*Continued from Page 5*

C, 134th Brigade Support Battalion, will enjoy dressing Cole in Minnesota Vikings outfits and playing games with him on the floor.

“I know Mark’s favorite thing with family is Saturday and Sunday mornings of all of us cuddling in bed, we talk, tickle the kids, laugh and just lovingly at each other and enjoy the sweet breath against us,” she said.

For Capt. Joshua Simer, he and his wife Kelly will be looking lovingly at each other when they will attend their first ultrasound when he is home on leave.

Kelly said she learned she was pregnant the day after he left for Camp Shelby. “Even with the challenges that are ahead, we are thrilled,” she said.

Thrilled also is the best way to describe these Soldiers and others in the same situation when they go home for Christmas.



Submitted photo

**Spc. Mark Andren, 134th Brigade Support Battalion, holds his third son, Cole, who was born June 8. Cole rolled over two days after Andren left for Camp Shelby.**

# Christmas time or is it another Holiday season

By Spc. Jeremy Richmann  
1/133 Chaplain assistant

It is commonly known that for many people this time of year is often the most stressful and most depressing. Why is that so many of us beat ourselves up this time of year with worry when it all is about celebrating the gift of Jesus to the world? Some stay awake at night with restless minds while we should rest peacefully remembering the Christ child's arrival on earth.

Indeed God came to earth in human form to give us peace. The word Christmas itself means Christ's Mass. It is to be a joyful time of gathering and community where we exchange gifts with one another. Not because we

have great things to give but because God first gave us his best; his Son, Christ Jesus. God's most perfect creation was given so that we may live as His.

On the other hand we are only human. We seek the approval of our fellow human beings. Why, because they are close at hand. We can touch them we can feel and hear them. They are always there. So it is there attention we chase first. But has not God blessed us with these family and friends who's love and affection already surround us. So let us turn our attention to him. This is every bit as true for those of us in the military. We all have

family and friends back home that we will be with in a very short time too.

So let us, this Christmas remember, Christ together with our family and friends. Make it a joyous time. For our family and friends are a gift from the Lord. God is above all. Remember James 1:18, “Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of lights; with Him there is no variation or shadow cast by turning. By His own choice, He gave us new birth by the message of truth so that we could be the first fruits of his creatures.”

# Got RISK?

<https://cra.army.mil>

PLRS  
**Preliminary LOSS REPORTS**  
for the week of 10-16 Nov 05

# 4

U.S. SOLDIERS/CIVILIANS  
DIED IN  
ACCIDENTS

**LOSSES**

- One Iraqi National was killed and two others injured in Iraq on 10 November 2005 at 1027 local when a 3rd Infantry Division Soldier was flung forward during an abrupt stop as a Buffalo gunner and his M-16 magazine struck the trigger of the .50 cal. The weapon discharged a round that struck a pick-up truck killing and injuring the Iraqi Nationals.  
**COST: 1 Iraqi National Killed  
2 Iraqi Nationals injured**
- Five USASOC Soldiers were injured at Fort Bragg, NC on 10 November 2005 at 1630 local when the second M1037 HMMWV in a convoy turned too wide and went into a ditch.  
**COST: 5 Soldier injured  
1 M1037 HMMWV damaged**
- Two 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers were killed in Iraq on 11 November 2005 at 0622 local when a collision occurred with two fuel tankers in an 18 vehicle convoy. The vehicles caught fire and the two Soldiers were trapped inside.  
**COST: 2 Soldiers Killed  
2 Fuel tankers destroyed**
- A 172nd Stryker BCT Soldier was killed in Iraq on 12 November 2005 at 0710 local when a Stryker vehicle in a three vehicle convoy rolled over.  
**COST: 1 Soldier Killed  
1 Stryker damaged**
- A civilian contractor was killed in Kuwait on 12 November 2005 at 1100 local when he made a left turn in an M998 and a 5,000lb. water truck driven by a third country national could not stop in time and impacted the M998 on the driver's side.  
**COST: 1 Civilian Contractor Killed  
1 M998 HMMWV damaged  
1 5000lb. Water Truck damaged**
- An 82nd Airborne Division Soldier lost control of his motorcycle and impacted a wooden fence in Raeford, NC on 13 November 2005 at 1630 local. The Soldier sustained fractures of the C-5 vertebrae, lower right arm, and loss of his right foot.  
**COST: 1 Soldier with severe injuries**
- A 101st Airborne Division UH-60A flew under a JLENS, cutting the Kevlar optic tether line attaching the JLENS to the mobile mooring station. The JLENS free floated to 5000 feet and burst on 15 November 2005 at 1443 local in Iraq.  
**COST: 1 Joint Land Elevated Netted Sensor System (JLENS) estimated damage of \$800,000**
- A Texas National Guard OH-58A lost power and impacted in a pecan tree grove near Fort Bliss, TX on 16 November 2005 at 1900 local while conducting a boarder security and support mission. All three personnel on board the aircraft were injured.  
**COST: 1 Soldier critically injured  
1 Soldier with minor injuries  
1 Law Enforcement Agent with minor injuries  
1 OH-58A Kiowa damaged (may possibly be totally destroyed)**
- A RQ-7B Shadow had an engine failure at Fort Huachuca, AZ on 16 November 2005 at 1955 local. The RQ-7B was too low to deploy the recovery chute.  
**COST: 1 RQ7B Shadow with Class B damage (between \$200,000 to \$1 million)**

**OWN the EDGE**  
Composite Risk Management

## PRELIMINARY LOSS REPORT 0580

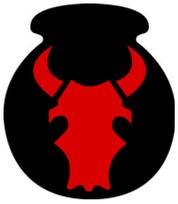
### ROLLOVER CLAIMS 1 LIFE — ACCIDENT

A 42nd Infantry Division Soldier was killed on 22 May 2005 at 1440 local in Kirkuk, Iraq. The 45 year-old NCO (SGT) was performing turret gunner duties in an M1114 HMMWV when the driver swerved to avoid a civilian vehicle. The HMMWV rolled two times, crushing the NCO.

Including this accident, there were **39** Class A-C Army **HMMWV** accidents from the start of FY05 to 22 May 2005, resulting in **24** Soldier deaths. Of the **39** accidents, **18** involved rollovers and **20** of the **24** fatalities occurred in a rollover.

Don't let this happen in your formation. Consider these actions to prevent rollover incidents:

- ✓ Ensure Soldiers are familiar with the situations that cause rollovers and their individual responsibilities. Consult the [Battle Drill Card](#) for the Up Armored HMMWV.
- ✓ Train drivers in evasive and braking maneuvers by implementing and resourcing a program such as the [Advanced Skills Driver Training](#) at your location.
- ✓ Soldiers must be trained in local area hazards (e.g., operating M1114 HMMWVs at speeds appropriate for road conditions they will encounter)
- ✓ Ensure personnel within the vehicle communicate local area hazards to one another



# IN OUR SIGHTS



Photo by Pfc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PA

**Brig. Gen. Jon Trost, assistant adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard, congratulates Spc. Katie Weidell after he presented his coin to her Sunday for facilitating six separate video teleconferences for her battalion, 1-34 Brigade Troops Battalion.**



Photo by Capt. Paul Rickert, 1-125 FA UPAR

**These Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery clear stairs during their Military on Urban Terrain Site training**



Photo by Pfc. Brian D. Jesness, 1/34 BCT PA

**Capt. Scott Rohweder, 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion, discussed the Squad Live Fire Exercise with Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty Sunday during Pawlenty's visit.**



Photo by Sgt. Kent Westberg, 1/34 BCT PA

**Camp Shelby's Medevac team participated in a 9-line Medevac exercise on one of the camp's ranges last week.**